

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-14 (cancelled)

15. (currently amended) A replicating device adapted to be used in association with a replicating pad having a plurality of pins extending downwardly and a compliant agar plate having one or more cell colony formed thereon extending upwardly from the agar plate the replicating device comprising:

a gripper adapted to grip and release the replicating pad;

a pad locating device so configured as to align the replicating pad in the gripper;

a positioning device so configured as to lift, lower and move the gripper to a predetermined location wherein the positioning device lowers the replicating pad onto the compliant agar plate; and

a pusher so configured as to push the replicating pad downwardly whereby the pins of the replicating pad are pushed into the cell colony on ~~in engagement with~~ the compliant agar plate and whereby the replicating pad is pushed downwardly once ~~it~~ the replicating pad has been positioned in the predetermined location on the agar plate.

16. (previously presented) A replicating device as claimed in claim 15 wherein the pusher includes an actuator and a pressure regulator.

17. (cancelled)

18. (previously presented) A replicating device as claimed in claim 16 wherein the pad locating device has a plurality of projections extending upwardly therefrom.

19. (original) A replicating device as claimed in claim 18 wherein the projections include conical pins and blocks.

20. (original) A replicating device as claimed in claim 19 further including a pad container adapted to hold a plurality of replicating pads.

21. (original) A replicating device as claimed in claim 15 wherein the gripper includes a vacuum to hold the replicating pad to the gripper.

22-26 (cancelled)

27. (previously presented) A replicating device as claimed in claim 15 wherein the replicating pad is a disposable replicating pad.